

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:RHFROWICK:DJM

APPROVED BY EUR:WSTABLER

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C:VLEHOVICH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059877

EXDIS, TOSEC 36

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: EC NINE PROPOSAL FOR GENERAL DECLARATION  
ON MEDITERRANEAN

REF: GENEVA 1725, 1744, 1843

GENEVA FOR US CSCE DEL

1. ACROSS BACKGROUND OF RECENT EC GESTURES TOWARD ARABS  
WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH US, WE ARE CONCERNED OVER  
CURRENT ITALIAN INITIATIVE AT CSCE TO INCLUDE "GENERAL  
DECLARATION" ON MEDITERRANEAN IN CONFERENCE FINAL  
DOCUMENT.

2. ITALIANS FIRST RAISED THIS INITIATIVE IN NATO CAUCUS  
MARCH 14, ANNOUNCING DECLARATION HAD RECEIVED SUPPORT  
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OF EC NINE BY "POLITICAL DECISION." US REP TOOK RESERVED

POSITION, EMPHASIZING NECESSITY OF STUDYING TEXT BEFORE COMMENTING ON IT. (US DEL SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED ARABS WERE ALSO APPRISED OF DECLARATION MARCH 14.) TEXT OF DECLARATION WAS GIVEN TO US DEL MARCH 16 AND RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 18. AT NEXT SCHEDULED NATO CAUCUS ON MARCH 20, AMBASSADOR SHERER ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST ITALIAN INITIATIVE BUT WITH LITTLE OR NO SUPPORT FROM OTHER ALLIES, WHO EVIDENTLY FEAR POSSIBLE ARAB RESENTMENT OVER THEIR FAILURE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL.

3. ITALIAN INITIATIVE GOES BEYOND EARLIER "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" AT CSCE, ACCEPTED BY SOVIETS, WHICH WOULD HAVE LIMITED TROUBLESOME MEDITERRANEAN QUESTION TO TWO ROUNDS OF APPEARANCES BY ISRAEL AND ARAB LITTORAL STATES. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER SOVIETS ARE AWARE OF DRAFT MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION BUT BELIEVE THEY WOULD RESIST IT, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT COULD DELAY PROGRESS AT GENEVA JUST WHEN END OF CONFERENCE MAY BE IN SIGHT.

4. WE HAVE SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO US DEL CSCE CALLING FOR CONTINUED VIGOROUS EFFORTS WITH EC NINE TO BLOCK TABLING OF DECLARATION, OR IF SUCH ACTIONS UNSUCCESSFUL, TO RENDER WORDING AS INNOCUOUS AS POSSIBLE. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE INSTRUCTED EMBASSY ROME TO APPROACH ITALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE AND EXPRESS SURPRISE THAT THIS EC NINE DECLARATION, TO BE MADE IN NAME OF ALL CSCE PARTICIPANT STATES, WAS EVIDENTLY BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF ARABS BEFORE US HAD OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON IT. IT MAY ALSO BE DESIRABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH BRITISH DURING SECRETARY'S STOP-OVER IN LONDON. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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